

**Message from the Secretary of State of the United States of America
On the Occasion of the Celebration of the One Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary
of the Establishment of the First American Consulate in Leipzig**

It is an honor for me as Secretary of State of the United States of America to offer my best wishes as Americans and Germans join to observe the 175th Anniversary of the establishment of the first American Consulate in Leipzig.

Germany was tremendously important to the young American Republic in 1826 when we established our first representation in Leipzig. The countless Germans who came to our shores to help build our country profoundly influenced America. Baron von Steuben from Magdeburg, father of the American military; Johann Augustus Roebling from Muhlhausen, builder of the Brooklyn Bridge; and Carl Walther from Saxony, founder of the Lutheran church in the American Midwest, are but three of the thousands of Germans who made major contributions to shaping the American character and spirit.

Today the close German-American partnership remains as essential as ever before, as we continue to learn from each other and to work side by side to ensure that the benefits of democracy and freedom endure for all our peoples, and for those in the rest of the world. The reopening of our Consulate General in Leipzig ten years ago reaffirmed that historic ties between the United States and this part of Germany remain strong, vibrant, and manifold. The exhibit sponsored by the Consulate General entitled "Amerika im Herzen Deutschlands" reflects the vitality of these bonds.

We have revived and intensified person-to-person links during the past decade -- through new sister-city relationships, student and cultural exchanges, university partnerships, tourism, and contacts between political and business leaders on both sides of the Atlantic. Just as it did 175 years ago, business also plays a major role in our relationship. America today is the largest foreign investor in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia. More than 180 U.S. firms have settled in the region during the past decade, investing in excess of DM 20 billion and creating or securing more than 30,000 jobs. Trade is also expanding.

The American Consulate General in Leipzig -- as the successor to our previous Consulates in the region over the past 150 years -- plays an active and pivotal role in supporting such developments with the governments and people in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia. It is with pride that I join in commemorating this anniversary of the official American presence in Leipzig. I am confident that our Consulate General will continue for many years to bring the American and German people closer together, just as that first American Consulate did 175 years ago.



Colin L. Powell

May 22, 2001